Special Issue

The Interaction between Human Beings and the Environment: Challenges and Prospects for the Sustainable Development of Ecosystems

Message from the Guest Editors

The development of human societies during the Holocene has been closely related to the environments in which they have grown. This interaction has played a significant role in shaping both the natural and the anthropogenic environment, with documented impacts from prehistory to the modern era. The challenges of the past, as well as the societal and technological transformations that helped deal with these challenges, were key factors in transitions to improved, but also degraded, cultural and natural contexts. Understanding these past interactions is a key element of surveying current and future development.Contributions to this Special Issue will explore the past and present records of interaction between human societies and the environment, considering the prospect of sustainable development of ecosystems in the future. We invite perspectives that interpret palaeo-archives and records of past environments, documented impacts on human societies, and modern records and proxies that decipher how modern human societies and environments interact in different scales and geographies.

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

We live in a Quaternary world, that is, a world shaped by the interplay of the different compartments of the earth system—lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere, cryosphere—during the last ~2.6 million years. It is not possible to understand the current world—and, hence, to anticipate its possible future developments—without knowing the Quaternary history of drivers, processes, and mechanisms that have generated it. Our own species is an evolutionary outcome of the Quaternary performance. Therefore, the journal *Quaternary* is born with the aim of being an integrative journal to encompass all aspects of Quaternary science focused on understanding the complex world in which we live and to provide a sound scientific basis to anticipate possible future trends and inform environmental policies.

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